



State of Utah

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## UTAH STATE TAX COMMISSION

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Salt Lake attorney pleads guilty On state tax fraud charges

A Salt Lake attorney pled guilty Sept. 23 to three Class A misdemeanor charges on various state tax charges.

Robert Bradley Neff, who operates a law firm in Salt Lake County, was ordered to pay more than \$211,000 in restitution to taxpayers, criminal penalties, and interest. He was also ordered to serve 24 months of probation by Third District Court Judge William W. Barrett.

A Utah State Tax Commission criminal investigation disclosed that Neff intentionally withheld employees' tax funds and kept more than \$88,000 of these funds. "He kept these funds for his own personal use rather than remit to the Tax Commission," said Charlie Roberts, spokesman for the agency.

The charges filed by the Utah Attorney General's Office were reduced from the original charges of six counts of third and second degree felonies including communications fraud, unlawful dealing of property by a fiduciary, and tax evasion.

"Stealing withholding taxes that were paid by his employees is a serious criminal offense that is vigorously investigated by Tax Commission officers," Roberts said. "When you steal withholding income taxes, like Mr. Neff was convicted of doing, you are stealing from our school children."

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